

TIRAA, Anna Elizabeth (Cook Islands)

Current employment and/or position/title:

Director of Climate Change, Cook Islands Government

Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

Anna Tiraa is a committed conservationist with more than 20 years working for the benefit of the Pacific Islands environment. Anna has undertaken environmental related work for Government, National and international NGOs, communities, private sector, inter-governmental regional organizations and the UN. Work experience includes project design, implementation, negotiation, monitoring, review and evaluation. Individual work assignments have been in the Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tuvalu and Tokelau. She has been a major contributor to bringing back a critically endangered endemic Rarotongan bird from the brink of extinction. As Biodiversity Officer for the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), she has contributed to the biodiversity conservation efforts of more than 20 Pacific Island countries and territories. This experience has given her a sound knowledge of processes across a broad spectrum of groups contributing to conservation initiatives in the Oceania region, and allowed her to establish a valuable network of environmental policy makers and practitioners in the Oceania region.

Particular qualifications to be a Regional Councillor:

Anna's educational qualifications include a BSc in Environmental Studies from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji (1994), and an MSc in Natural Resources Management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, (2011), for which she was awarded a UNEP scholarship. Her research project was on the topic of biodiversity and climate change in the Cook Islands. Anna is presently a member of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) and Deputy Regional Vice Chair for Oceania, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). She is an Executive Committee member of the IUCN Transboundary Specialist Group (Oceania Representative). She is also an Executive founding member of Tapororporo'anga Ipukarea Society (a Cook Islands Environmental NGO formed in 1996, also an IUCN Member) and was a Global Councillor for BirdLife International Council from 2004–2006.